

aboutfirst news

June, 2018 First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls



Thank You!
Pastor Steve & Janet
for your ministry, leadership & friendship

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issue 213, June 2018

First United Methodist Church
718 Clay Street
Cedar Falls, Iowa, 50613
aboutfirst.com

Announcements and editorial content for publication may be submitted to the First UMC media office by the 20th of each preceding month. Email to: chris.congdon@aboutfirst.com

Thoughts from Steve – Thank You!

First and most of all, Janet and I would like to thank all of you for these 9 years of serving Christ together at Cedar Falls First. We had a grand welcome to Cedar Falls! How many people can say they were welcomed by a parade? Our first morning was a wonderful way to see the best of our new community. We will never forget your warm welcome. It has been a blessing to serve you, and for Janet and me to call Cedar Falls First our Church Family.

We will be taking many wonderful memories of our years in Cedar Falls. One of our favorites was having the opportunity to travel twice to Banyam Theological Seminary in Nigeria. Through our church's partnership we have built a new Medical Clinic and supported a Computer Lab on campus. Your generous support has helped a number of students with scholarships over the years. This relationship led to last summer's Pulpit Exchange that took Janet and I to the B.T.S. campus in Nigeria, while Provost John Pena and his wife, Titi lived in our parsonage and were welcomed into your hearts. Meanwhile, I taught and preached under the Banyan trees, and Janet used her nursing skills at the clinic.

One of the reasons I was sent to Cedar Falls was to help move you forward with your Building Project. You had spent nearly 10 years of planning and meeting without turning a spade. It was a historical time in the life of this church when we began to see the building transform before our very eyes. The renovations, new entrance and Gathering Place all made a difference in the way we do church. There is definitely a warm welcome feeling when we gather for worship, study and fellowship.

Nearly every Sunday since Easter, I have mentioned a story about a Sunday School teacher asking her class, "What did it feel like when you walked into the church this morning?" One little girl answered, "It was like walking into the heart of God." I will miss walking into our church on Sunday mornings, because when I enter the Sanctuary through the "secret door" it is like walking into a family reunion. It is buzzing with conversation, laughter and joy. For me, "it is like walking into the heart of God."

Speaking of love, and particularly the love of my life, Janet has been by my side for 40 years in serving churches in Iowa and Missouri. Even though we are retiring, Janet and I will continue to be active and involved in doing ministry together. We have been a team, and churches have been blessed because they really get "two for the price of one". Together, we have traveled to not only Nigeria, but have taken groups to the Holy Land, led mission trips across our country, and organized Spiritual Retreats to Colorado. We directed Church Camps and led Bible Studies. We do it because we have been called by God to serve Christ and witness his love. We have been blessed, and you have been a BIG part of it. Thank you!

God bless you, and keep you -

Pastor Steve and Janet

Our new address:
102 Southwoods Drive Nevada, IA 50201
Steve's cell phone#: 515-451-6312
Janet's cell phone#: 515-451-1738

Summer Worship Schedule begins June 3

The summer Sunday morning worship schedule begins June 3. We will offer the two 8:30 services as usual (Transformation worship in Fellowship Hall, and Traditional Worship in the sanctuary), BUT our second Traditional Worship service will start at 10:00 instead of 11:00.

Other special dates to note for this summer:

- June 17 Pastor Steve's last Sunday
- June 24 Pastor Scott Kober's first Sunday
- one service at 10:00 in the sanctuary
- July 8 Pastor Lee Schott from Women at the Well UMC - one service at 10:00
- Aug 26 Worship on the Green - outside at 10:00



Transitions: an Extra-Ordinary Transformation

We have entered the liturgical season within the church called "Ordinary Time." However, we can assure you that this season is anything but ordinary. It is actually a time of change and transition for many of us and for our First UMC, and for the United Methodist Church in general. School years are ending, summer plans are being engaged, pastors are moving, and there are ongoing discussions on big issues facing our church. It seems that the only constant is that we are in a state of Transition.

The Bible gives us guidance for facing times of Transition, and our Christian faith call us to "do life" together, in community with God's other children. Join us in Transformation Worship for the next few weeks as we look together What, Why and Who of Transitions. **Transformation Worship, 8:30 Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall**

Golden Cross offering- June 10

The Golden Cross offering supports many important health and healing ministries conducted by Iowa United Methodist Churches such as free medical and dental clinics. The fund also provides small grants to churches that need to create handicapped accessible ramps and facilities. These are just a few examples of the important ministries that are enabled by your generous support. Please consider a contribution to the Golden Cross offering on June 10.

Q How Many Methodists Does It Take to Pull-Off a Sunday Morning?

A All of Them!
There's a role for all of us to play as we gather together on Sunday morning, and what a joy it is to know that each one of us can have a positive impact on the worship experience. We have ongoing needs for greeters, tech operators, coffee servers, bus drivers, worship leaders, scripture readers and more. Here are areas where we especially need help:

Welcome Center Hosts

We are looking for individuals to be present at the Welcome Center. The times we need are 9:45-10:45. It is important to have members present in case we have guests joining us. Please let Jenna Engel know if you are interested.

Share your musical talent

We have openings for special music at several Sunday morning services. Contact Doug Shaffer if you would like to share your gift of music. 319-610-4249 musicman52151@gmail.com

Prayer Team

Everyone is invited to join the prayer team any Sunday morning as we lift up worship in the chapel at 8:00 a.m. Contact one of the prayer team members if you have any questions: Jim Larson, Genny Van Dorn, Debbie Dance and Jan Hoover

Altar Flowers

The altar flower calendar for 2018 is at the Welcome Center. Sign up now to recognize a special date or to honor a loved one with flowers for the altar. Have the flowers delivered to the church on Friday, please.

Cards of Welcome

First United Methodist Church of Cedar Falls has a long standing tradition of welcoming their new pastors. One of those traditions includes sending letters or cards of welcome. You are invited to send them to the following address:
Rev. Scott and Karen Keele Kober (son Ethan)
130 N. West Street
Solon, IA 52333

What Does the Cow Say? The Cow Says, “Welcome Pastor Scott!”

Farm animals are a common sight in Iowa, and it seemed appropriate to fill a barnyard to support Heifer International. Donate as you wish throughout the year and we'll keep adding animals like cows, sheep, goats, donkeys, pigs, ducks, geese, chickens, rabbits, and beehives to the barn in the window of the church office.

We have a bull in the barn to honor Pastor Steve, so now we could use a cow to honor Pastor Scott Kober and his family. The barn also has a pig in honor of our current District Superintendant Jackie Bradford and a sheep in honor of Paul Wilcox, who will become our DS in July.



Reception for Pastor Steve & Janet

A reception honoring Pastor Steve and Janet Williams will be Sunday, June 3 from 2:00-4:30 in the Gathering Place. There will be a special presentation at 3:00. Ice cream sundaes (Pastor Steve's favorite!) will be served. All are welcome to come and thank Pastor Steve and Janet for their nine years with us.

New Church Directory

It's been several years since our last photo directory, and many changes have taken place in our church family. One big change is the upcoming retirement of Pastor Steve Williams. With our new minister, Pastor Scott Kober, joining us this summer it seems appropriate to get a new church directory. The photo directories are invaluable for helping newcomers connect faces with names and, as you can imagine, Pastor Scott and Karen and Ethan will have many new names to learn.



We need all of you to make our new directory complete! We are partnering with Lifetouch for this important project. Lifetouch is providing the directory at no cost to our church. Every family photographed receives a complimentary directory and an 8x10 portrait. You can sign up for photography online at our church website at www.aboutfirst.com (this is easy, and the recommended way to schedule), or on some Sunday mornings at the Welcome Center, or you may stop by the church office during the week.

Photography dates are: July 17-21, and August 1-4.

All photography and portrait viewing will take place at our church with no sitting fee. You will have a variety of poses taken and one pose will be selected for the directory. In addition to your complimentary 8x10, you will have the opportunity to order additional portraits on the day of your portrait session. This is not an obligation, but a nice opportunity to purchase professional portraits for yourself and family members. Price lists are available in the church office or on the Lifetouch information table in the church Gathering Place.

Your entire session will take about an hour, during which time you will check-in, be photographed, and view your portraits.

Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to be professionally photographed. We are looking forward to seeing you in our directory. We are hoping for 100% participation!

A New Structure for a Ministry of Love

Anyone who has been involved with the lunches we serve after a funeral knows how important this service is to the family and how it reflects our church's mission of love. The UMW Bereavement Committee is making a change to how the serving crews are staffed.

We will be organizing four bereavement teams that will each serve rotating months through the year (much like our usher schedule). We already have one team of two men and seven women that will serve April, August and December. This team will serve any funeral that occurs during those months. They will still be calling for donations of salads and cakes and may also need to recruit additional help if some of the team is unavailable. Groups which wish to assist with specific funerals are always welcome to do so.

We need three more teams. It is beneficial to have at least a couple of men on the team but not necessary. It can be made up of all men if you want! Nor does it have to have any set number of people on it – it can be as few as two people who organize the volunteers. We have written instructions on what to do and we also have plenty of people familiar with serving the luncheons who are willing to help your team until you are comfortable on your own. Having more people involved will help teams if they are short of help for some reason.

We need people to fill these teams. Remember, each team will be “on call” only three months each year, so you can work around those months you know you are busy or away from CF. Most teams will actually serve a luncheon three or four times total for the year.

If you want to help or want to know more, please contact Bobbi Jo Smith or Jan Benson. Thank you for your consideration.

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” – Elizabeth Andrews

Rummage Sale Update

Sale is scheduled for July 26 - 28, 2018

Please start sorting and bring useable, saleable “stuff” to bring to the Church. Please pre-sort as much as possible the items you bring. Classrooms under the Fellowship Hall are marked as follows for your donated items:

Room 56 all non-clothing items;

Room 57 women's clothes/accessories;

Room 58 men's clothes/accessories, holiday items, bedding, towels;

Room 59 books and toys;

Room 61 children's clothes/accessories, costumes.

Items we will not accept: paint, computers, tires, mattresses, TV's, pianos/organs, or encyclopedias.

Additional sorting of these items occurs every Wednesday evening from 6:30 p.m. until done. All volunteers accepted!! Any questions, please call Maxine Kehret at 296-1518.

Rummage Sale Coordinators Needed:

Someone to coordinate the sale and display of all donated books, videos and DVD's for the Rummage Sale July 26-28th. Commitment also involves calling church members for volunteer assistance during the sale hours.

Someone to coordinate the sale and display of the Bake Sale area during the Rummage Sale July 26-28th. Commitment also involves calling church members for volunteer hours for the Bake Sale area during the Rummage Sale.

Questions – please call Maxine Kehret at 296-1518.



Trinity EUB, Trinity UMC
Prairie Springs UMC,
Cedar Falls Mennonite Church

An Invitation From our Neighbors:

OPEN HOUSE Sunday, June 24, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Cedar Falls Mennonite Church (9th and Clay Streets)

WALK THROUGH this glorious old building as we honor its contribution to the Cedar Falls community and to multiple congregations over the years.

REJOICE with us that CFMC will be moving in August to share building space with First Presbyterian Church of Cedar Falls, at 9th and Main Streets. We are excited about opportunities for building a strong working relationship with their congregation as we continue to engage and fulfill our mission.

ENJOY refreshments downstairs in the fellowship hall, where we will also be CELEBRATING the 70th wedding anniversary of Agnes and Dick Berky, who have worshiped in this building for 64 years.

6 Events

June 5 - Grief Support Session

Where: Church Parlor

When: 2:00 to 3:30 pm

Grieving the loss of a loved one is a difficult journey. Your church family cares and offers several forms of support including: one-to-one individual support, social outings, and a monthly support session. If you have suffered the loss of someone special, you are welcome, whether you are a member of the church or not. If you know someone who is grieving, please pass along this information. You may call Carol through the church office at 266-1713 for more information.

June 5 - Food Bank Work Crew

Where: Northeast Iowa Food Bank

When: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Join the crew from our church that helps at the Food Bank the first Tuesday of each month. Often we fill grocery bags with kid friendly good for the Backpack program. Sometimes we get selected for other much needed jobs. It's always a good time and a great bunch of people. You can carpool with Lisa Congdon or get yourself to the Food Bank at 1605 Lafayette Street in Waterloo. Would you like to be on the reminder email or do you want to know more? Contact Lisa in the church office. lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com

June 21 - First Friends Potluck

Where: Gathering Place

When: noon - 2:00pm

Everyone is welcome! Spend some time enjoying good food, card games, dominos, cribbage, etc. Fellowship is an important part of the gathering. Check us out! Come and get better acquainted with others in the church. Couples and singles are welcome. Bring a dish to share and your own table service. We meet on the third Thursday of every month from noon until 2 pm in the Gathering Place.

June 25 - LifeServe Blood Drive

Where: Gathering Place

When: 12:30-6:00

Donors, cookie bakers, and hosts are needed. They have quite a few appointments slots to fill. Sign up to donate at www.lifeservebloodcenter.org. Use the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center to let Lisa know if you can donate cookies or chat and serve cookies to the donors for an hour or so.

June 26 - Crafter's Corner

Where: Church Parlor

When: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

This is a laid back and hands-on group for all skill levels. Bring your own craft project to work on or give your time and talent to make sleep mats for the homeless, handmade gifts for those in need, or prayer shawls for those in need. Thank you to all who have donated craft items - we are well stocked and need to use up what we have. Questions? contact Crystal Wilken at crystalwilken@gmail.com

June 30 - Habitat for Humanity Build Day

Where: build site TBD

When: 8:30-3:00

This year's Fun & Fellowship committee Habitat for Humanity Build event is Saturday, June 30th from 8:30-3:00. There is room for 10 volunteers. Since there are multiple Habitat for Humanity houses in different build stages going on in the area, details explaining the location and what we'll be doing will be sent by June 23rd. Sign up at the Welcome Center in the Gathering Place. Any questions, contact Heath Wilken at 319-610-3424.

June 30 - Blessing of the Bicycles

Where: Gateway Park, CF

When: 8:00 a.m.

A brief gathering of cyclists with blessings for a safe cycling season from the Cedar Falls Ministerial Association. All are welcome to get your bikes blessed.

July 1 - Faith to Faith Bike Ride

Where: Gateway Park, CF

When: 1:30 registration (free!), 2:00 ride

Visit three houses of worship in CF and Waterloo: 1st Presbyterian Church and Nazareth Lutheran Church in CF, and Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Waterloo. Each congregation will show us the beauty of their buildings and a brief intro to their ministries.

Monday Night Softball

Softball season is in full swing! Our First UMC team plays in the Cedar Falls Church League on Monday nights at Birdsall Park. Fan support is always appreciated, so join your friends at Birdsall Park and cheer on the team!

The schedule for June

June 4 - 6:00 on field 2

June 11 - 7:00 & 8:00 on field 3

June 18 - 6:00 on field 2

June 25 - 8:30 on field 3

Zumba Every Thursday!

You can always Zumba with us on Thursdays at 5:30 pm in our Fellowship Hall! A free-will contribution of a couple of bucks is appreciated. Contact mary.friedrich@cfu.net if you have questions. Come and dance...it's never too late to join us on this fun fitness adventure!

Recurring Weekly:

Sunday

8:00 prayer in the chapel
 8:30 Transformation Worship
 8:30 Traditional Service, sanctuary
 9:30 Fellowship time, Gathering Place
 9:30 Frederika UMC worship
 9:45 Sunday School for some adults
 10:00 Traditional Service, sanctuary
 10:30 Washington Chapel Worship
 7:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday

7:00 Men's Breakfast, CF Family Restaurant
 9:30 Tuesday Bible Study, chapel
 9:30 Quilters/Stitchers, O59
 4:30-6:00 Community Meal, Fellowship Hall
 7:00-9:00 AA, O55

Wednesday

9:00 Women Connected by Prayer, parlor
 6:30 WOW AA, O55

Thursday

5:30-6:30 Zumba, Fellowship Hall

Also Scheduled....

SATURDAY June 2

9:00-11:00 Katie Klaver Open House - GP
 Noon-5 Kenzie Beving Open House - GP
 6:00 New member dinner, parlor
 Relay for Life @ Waterloo Bucks game

SUNDAY June 3

New Members Sunday
 Summer worship schedule begins
 Senior recognition Sunday at Transformation
 Chris Werling at Frederika with communion
 2:00-4:30 Reception for Steve & Janet

MONDAY June 4

10:00 FirstKids worship
 6:00 Softball, field 2
 6:30 Stephen Ministry supervision

TUESDAY June 5

Grief Support outing today
 2:00-3:30 Grief support, parlor

WEDNESDAY June 6

6:30 Rummage Sale sorting - lower level

THURSDAY June 7

6:30 Trustees, library

FRIDAY June 8

7:00 Iowa Annual Conference Begins
 Iowa Events Center, DSM

SATURDAY June 9

Iowa UMC Annual Conference, DSM

SUNDAY June 10

Iowa UMC Annual Conference, DSM
 6:15-8:15 Vacation Bible School Begins!

Monday June 11

Iowa UMC Annual Conference, DSM
 9:30 UMW Board Meeting
 6:15-8:15 Vacation Bible School
 7:00 Softball Game, field 3
 8:00 Softball Game, field 3

TUESDAY June 12

6:15-8:15 Vacation Bible School
 7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY June 13

6:15-8:15 Vacation Bible School
 6:30 Finance Committee, choir room

THURSDAY June 14

6:15-8:15 Vacation Bible School
 6:30 SPRC, O55

SUNDAY June 17

Father's Day
 Pastor Steve's Last Sunday in CF
 9:30 Padma Templeton at Frederika

MONDAY June 18

6:00 Softball, field 2

WEDNESDAY June 20

Newsletter deadline
 6:30 Rummage Sale sorting - lower level

THURSDAY June 21

Noon-3:00 1st Friends potluck, Gather place

SATURDAY June 23

8:00-10:00 Sturgis Falls Parade Hospitality

SUNDAY June 24

Pastor Scott's first Sunday
 10:00 One combined worship service

MONDAY June 25

12:30-6:00 Blood Drive, Gathering Place
 8:30 Softball, field 3

TUESDAY June 26

6:00-8:00 Crafter's Corner, parlor

WEDNESDAY June 27

6:30 Rummage Sale sorting - lower level

THURSDAY June 28

6:30 Rummage sale meeting, chapel

FRIDAY June 29

Noon - newsletter mailing crew

SATURDAY June 30

8:30-3:00 Habitat for Humanity work day



a bunch of thank yous from our Lincoln neighbor kids

Changing Stories!

On behalf of the students and staff at Lincoln, we would like to thank our Reading Buddies! Three years ago we were challenged by our Bishop to participate in the Change A Child's Story program. He asked for volunteers to read with students and our church has responded! We started in grades Kinder through 2nd. After the first year, we expanded to third grade. In addition to the amazing opportunities for our students to work individually and in small groups with volunteers, the generosity of your donations has provided many additions to our classroom libraries and a book to take home for every student this spring! We are thankful for our neighbors at First United Methodist Church!

Ralph Bryant

Principal
Lincoln Elementary School



Vacation Bible School scheduled for June 10th-14th

Let's vacation in Babylon! At Babylon Vacation Bible School, we'll visit Babylon through the eyes of Daniel. Kids and adults will discover they're not much different from Daniel and his friends. We'll learn that like Daniel, we can courageously keep our faith even when things aren't going so well. Through this interactive program, children will be guided through beach-themed, music, crafts, science activities, recreation, Bible stories and much more.

Pre-registration is suggested. Please return completed forms to Jenna Engel. You can drop off in office or mail forms to Jenna Engel, First United Methodist Church, 718 Clay Street Cedar Falls Iowa, 50613. Cost: \$15.00 suggested for one participant or for families \$20.00. Contribution is voluntary, and is not a requirement to attend. Make checks payable to First United Methodist Church and mark "VBS".

Please complete one registration form per child.

We are **looking for volunteers**. If you would like to become a part of Vacation Bible School, please contact Jenna Engel.



With Sunday school ending for the year. I just want to say Thank you to all our Children, Youth and Adult teachers. Without all of you we would not be able to have Sunday school. Pictured here is half of the K-2nd grade class. On behalf of myself and the Preschool-2nd grade class we want to acknowledge Janet Williams for being our choir director. She will be missed by all of us! - Jenna

Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 10 - Thursday, June 14

6:15-8:15 pm

Pre- registration is suggested. Please return completed forms to Jenna Engel. You can drop off in office or mail forms to Jenna Engel, First United Methodist Church, 718 Clay Street Cedar Falls Iowa, 50613. Cost: \$15.00 suggested for one participant or for families \$20.00. Contribution is voluntary, and is not a requirement to attend. Make checks payable to First United Methodist Church and mark "VBS". Please complete one registration form per child.



Participating Child

Child's Name _____ Child's Date of Birth _____

Age _____ Grade in Fall 2018 _____ (must turn 3 years old by September 15 to attend this year)

Names of Parents and adults authorized to pick up children. _____

Child's Home Address _____ City/State _____

Contact Information

Primary _____ phone _____ relationship (circle): parent / trusted adult

Additional _____ phone _____ relationship (circle): parent / trusted adult

Additional _____ phone _____ relationship (circle): parent / trusted adult

Health information

Please indicate any information about your child that we should know, I.E. allergies, medication, special restrictions, special needs, special friendships we should encourage, etc. _____

In the event of emergency, I authorize the First United Methodists' VBS Staff consent to appropriate medical treatment for my child _____ (signed)

If you are helping and will be here during VBS you do not have to complete the physician information.

Child's doctor's name and phone are listed below:

Physician _____ Physician's Phone _____

media release

First United Methodist Church may use photographs and video of my child's participation in VBS activities. I understand that photo and video images will NOT be labeled with children's names. circle: yes / no initial: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ date _____

Adult Sunday School This Summer

The Pathfinders Sunday School class will be meeting on Sundays throughout the summer beginning June 3 at 9:45 a.m. in the chapel by our main entrance. All who wish to join us are welcome.

Question, Answer, Study, Lead

One way to challenge yourself and explore new areas of faith is to lead a short-term study group. We would love to fill our calendar with six to eight week bible studies and small groups. Short-term studies offer a chance to dig into issues without a long-term obligation. It's not as hard as you might think to be a leader. We have resources available for book and/or video-based studies on all kinds of Christian topics. If you have interest in pursuing a study, contact Jenna Engel. We'll help you get the materials, reserve meeting space, get your group on the church calendar, and we'll even publicize your study.

Tuesday Bible Study

The Tuesday morning Bible Study always welcomes new friends. This group meets in the chapel at 9:30 on Tuesday mornings. Bring your Bible – whichever one you prefer – and be prepared to read through and discuss the Bible. They are working their way through Job and will continue on from there. No homework or study guide is required, just read along with this group of women and offer your insight. Shirley Bolin and Linda Berneking are the contacts for this group.

Daily Devotions are Easy To Get Started

Read "The Upper Room" every day – it takes just a minute or two. You'll find a verse of scripture and a real-life lesson to think about. "The Upper Room" is available in print form from the literature rack outside the church office, or online from our church website.

The Upper Room magazine's mission is to provide a model of practical Christianity, to help people feel invited and welcomed into God's presence to:

- listen to scripture as God's personal message, linking their stories to God's story;
- commune with God in prayer;
- see their daily choices and small acts of obedience as part of God's work;
- realize our connection through Christ as a universal family of believers;
- encounter the living Christ and be transformed into Christ's likeness.



Invest a Weekend, Gain a Lifetime Purpose

- Learn to **see** the Christ among us
- Learn to **be** the Christ among us
- Jump-start your faith and live with a new sense of purpose
- A great opportunity for EVERYONE including YOU

This three-day retreat will take you away from the distractions of life and allow you to refocus on your faith. You'll be immersed in a Christian community. The activities and discussions will encourage you to live out your faith in

new ways. You'll be amply fed, comfortably housed, and you'll have plenty of time for a good night's sleep. Scheduled break times allow ample opportunities for private meditation, social interaction, and fresh air.

This is the **Walk to Emmaus**. How far, you ask? This walk is symbolic, not an actual physical challenge. Facilities and activities are fully accessible to people of all abilities. The name, **Walk to Emmaus** refers to Luke 24:13-35 where Jesus walks with two travelers who do not, at first, recognize him. In this weekend, you'll learn to recognize Christ in the world around you, and will be inspired to be an instrument of His love.

The Walk to Emmaus is an experience for adults, and there is a similar youth experience called Chrysalis. If you have interest in learning more about the **Walk to Emmaus** or Chrysalis, contact the church office, and we can arrange for you to meet someone who has already been - there are many in our congregation. Check out this video at www.vimeo.com/8697255.

Upcoming retreats:

July 12-July 15 men Mt Pleasant, IA
July 19-July 22 women Mt Pleasant, IA
Oct 25-Oct 28 men Solon, IA
Nov 8-Nov 11 women Solon, IA

June Mission Focus:

Hope for Harvey Mission Trip, Hygiene Kits, and UMCOR

Hurricane Harvey hit Texas hard last August, and they are still rebuilding. Leaders from the NorthEast and the EastCentral Districts of the Iowa Conference have joined forces to send workers to the Rio Texas Conference of the UMC this July 21-29. They will be partnering with the United Methodist Committee On Relief to work on homes damaged by Hurricane Harvey. Some members of Cedar Falls First UMC are joining this work group to help our brothers and sisters in Texas.



As you can imagine, Texas in July will be hot! We can help by donating large containers of powdered Gatorade or Powerade to help the workers combat dehydration. Please, no liquids as space is limited on the bus.

After the hurricane hit, thousands of Hygiene Kits were shipped to affected areas and UMCOR is working to replenish their supply for the next disaster. The most immediate need in many natural disasters is for hygiene supplies. Hygiene kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. You may donate any or all of these items to be made into Hygiene Kits. We will collect these kit items through October and load them onto the UMCOR truck at Ingathering.

UMCOR Hygiene Kit materials

- Hand towel (15"x 25" to 17"x27") new and unwashed, no microfiber towels
- Washcloth
- Comb (sturdy, with at least 6 inches of teeth - no pocket combs or picks)
- Toenail or fingernail clipper (no nail files)
- Adult sized toothbrush (individually wrapped- no personal advertising)
- Bath-size soap (no Ivory or Jergens)
- 10 adhesive bandages (3/4"x 3")

And, of course, your financial donations to UMCOR are used 100% for disaster relief. Make your check to First UMC with UMCOR- US on the memo. We will designate the donations collected in June to go to support UMCOR's response to disasters in the US.

To summarize our mission of the month needs for June:

- 1) Powdered Gatorade or Powerade
- 2) Hygiene Kit supplies
- 3) Financial support for UMCOR

Wee Care could use a boost

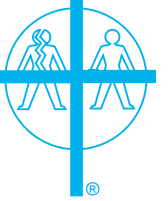
Grateful parents of wee ones come to our church every Tuesday afternoon to pick up a supply of much needed baby goods. This gap ministry through LoveINC helps struggling families stretch their dollars. Wipes, pacifiers, 8 oz & 4 oz bottles, receiving blankets, and sippy cups are always in demand. Donations of diapers size 2-5 are always appreciated (Aldis has good ones at a reasonable price). We have a designated shopper who finds good deals on these items, so monetary donations are put to good use. Put Wee Care on the memo line of your check to First UMC.

Be a Blessing to Someone – Love INC of the Cedar Valley

People in need will often approach a church for assistance. Unfortunately, many churches are not equipped to meet the variety of needs that are presented. That's not a failure of the churches - at their core, they are faith organizations, not relief agencies. But, the Christian imperative is to help. Love INC works like this: when someone approaches a member church for assistance, they are referred to Love INC. Love INC then conducts an interview to fully determine the need, and which church is best able to assist. Love In The Name of Christ (Love INC) pools the strengths of area churches to reach out to those in need - our church is one of 28 partners.

You can be a blessing to someone today by volunteering with Love INC as a Clearinghouse or Community volunteer. If you're interested in serving with Love INC, fill out a volunteer form found at loveincv.org or call 266-1264. They'll get back to you in the next couple of days.

— a steady reminder of God's presence



Adam and Samantha had been married 26 years. Their sons were 18 and 20. They were eagerly anticipating an empty nest and having more time for each other. In the fall, Adam began having stomach issues and back pain, which would linger for a few days and then disappear, only to reappear later. After an MRI, the results were devastating – Stage IV pancreatic cancer, already in his liver and both lungs. Adam was only 53.

Needless to say, their lives were turned upside down. Samantha knew she could not face this alone. She spoke with her pastor, who recommended she be matched with a Stephen Minister for weekly visits. In Samantha's words, "The time I spent with my Stephen Minister was the only time in the week when I could truly focus on my own needs. She was there just for me. I knew what I said was completely confidential, that I could share anything with her, and that's where it would stay."

Adam's illness progressed rapidly. Samantha went from being a wife to being a caregiver to being a grieving widow and dealing with everything that the loss of a spouse entails. Through it all, her Stephen Minister's support continued. The compassionate, consistent, and confidential support was so important in helping Samantha cope and then begin to heal.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry in our church, pick up a brochure on the literature rack by the office or call 266-1713 and you will be directed. We want to take this opportunity to thank both Pastor Steve and Janet Williams for the encouragement and guidance they have provided for our program. We will miss the example in loving, compassionate care they have provided to our congregation.

Bibles for Our Sisters in Mitchellville

A very tangible way we can help our sisters behind the razor wire is to provide Bibles for them. We have an opportunity to order new Bibles to be sent to the women's prison directly from Cokesbury. They are given to the ladies in Bible Studies and to keep for their own use. The Common English Bible for Daily Prayer is an easy to read Bible and includes guidelines for a healthy prayer life. We have sent many Bibles to prison and they are treasured by those who receive them.



These Bibles normally sell for over \$20, but Cokesbury has made special arrangements for friends of the Women at the Well UMC to order them for only \$10. Use the special "Bibles for our Sisters" envelope at the display in the Gathering Place. You can take a look at the type of Bible that your \$10 will provide, too.



FirstKids Tree in Full Bloom!

Here's a fun way to help out our FirstKids Preschool and Childcare this summer. This month we invite you to check out the tree near our front entrance. It's full of leaves and blossoms and critters marked with assorted items that FirstKids can use in their classrooms. Grab a leaf or a flower or a critter or two from the tree, take them shopping with you, and return the items the next time you are in the neighborhood. FirstKids has been a part of our church community since 1998. It's a joy to have the youngsters in the building throughout the week.

Worship:

Join the usher team

We have two spots to fill at the 11:00 services (10:00 in summertime), one in the January/ May/September team and on in the March/July/November team. Please consider serving the church by joining one of these teams. Marilyn Teig is the contact for questions. You can get her contact information from the church office.

Share your musical talent

We have openings for special music at several Sunday morning services. Contact Doug Shaffer if you would like to share your gift of music. Contact: musicman52151@gmail.com

Prayer Team

Everyone is invited to join the prayer team any Sunday morning as we lift up worship in the chapel at 8:00 a.m. Contact one of the prayer team members if you have any questions: Jim Larson, Genny Van Dorn, Debbie Dance and Jan Hoover

Altar Flowers

The altar flower calendar for 2018 is at the Welcome Center. Sign up now to recognize a special date or to honor a loved one with flowers for the altar. Have the flowers delivered to the church on Friday, please.

Outreach & Missions:

Community Meal - Every Month

This is a great ministry of feeding and fellowship and you can be a part of it. Once a month - the fourth Tuesday - we plan, prepare, and serve the meal. Meals are served from 4:30-6:00, and the prep work begins early afternoon. If you would like to help with meal preparation or serving, contact Stephanie Buchs. We can use donations of desserts, too. We welcome new faces. There are opportunities for everyone.

Remember, while our team only serves on the fourth Tuesday, other churches are here cooking and serving every other Tuesday of the month. You're always welcome to come and eat - the community meal is completely free and open to everyone.

Ongoing Wish Lists

For those who like to shop, we have an opportunity for you! There are several in-church groups that can always use supplies to support their ministries. For your convenience, we have compiled the wish lists for **Wee Care**, **UMCOR School Kits**, **FirstKids Daycare & Preschool**, and **Sunday School** all on one sheet. And, we have also compiled a list of items that you may have at home that could be repurposed for another use by Lincoln School, our Cardmakers, and River Hills School.

Pick up the Wish Lists sheet on the literature rack outside the church office, or at the donation collection site in the little hallway near the drinking fountain on the main level of the church.

Some people might think of these ministry opportunities as the “little things”, but little isn't the right word.

These are the needs of the church that are on-going in our weekly and monthly cycles of ministry.

These are the support roles that need to be filled and the easy contributions that we all can make to enhance the worship experience for others and to ensure that our ministries are well-equipped and well-staffed.

How can you help?

14 Women & Men



Thank you to our Stitchers & Quilters for these two beautiful banners which now hang in the empty window wells in the sanctuary narthex. Each banner displays an investment of hours of painstaking work and the results are gorgeous. Thank you for your ministry of love to the church. (Given in memory of Don Chapman)



United Methodist Women News

VISION STATEMENT OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: We are “turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.”

On Thursday, May 10th, the United Methodist Women gathered for their spring salad luncheon. One guest was our own Pastor Matt German who provided grace before the meal. Arlene Fleming provided the program for the day with an explanation about the World Thank Offering. She used John 21 as a basis for the illustration. In this Chapter, Jesus makes breakfast for the disciples (fish and bread). This occurs after His Resurrection and after He provides more fish than the nets will hold. Jesus asks Peter three questions, each time asking, Peter, do you love me? Jesus tells Peter, “feed my lambs,” “tend my sheep,” “feed my sheep”. And, finally, to “follow me.”

The Response Moment was given by Margery Andrew. Arlene Fleming provided the Devotions and the explanation of the Worship Center using food replicas to further explain Jesus’ statement to “feed my sheep.” A Thank Offering was collected.

Our next Unit Meeting will be on Thursday, September 13, 2018. It is a field trip to the Retrieving Freedom Service Dogs facility west of Waverly. Plans to car pool from the church at 1 p.m. and travel to 1152 - 230th St., Waverly. This facility is just west of the Heritage UMC on Highway # 3.

UMW Summer Calendar

July, August -

No Board meeting

July 15 - 17 - Summer Mission U, (School of Christian Mission), Iowa Valley Conference Center, Marshalltown

July 23 - NE District Leadership Team Meeting, Cedar Falls First UMC

2018 Mission U: Learning Together for Transformation of the World

The United Methodist Women (UMW) Mission U summer and fall events are wonderful mission education opportunities to study current issues impacting society. Whether you are young or old, laity or clergy, a UMW member or not, a first timer or attend every year, you are invited. All participate in the “Spiritual Growth Study: Embracing Wholeness”. Also, attendees may choose to attend either the geographic study Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the U.S. or the social issue study “What About Our Money? A Faith Response”.

WHEN: July 15 - 17 Summer Mission U, (register by June 17).

October 19-21. Fall Mission U, (register by September 21).

WHERE: Iowa Valley Continuing Education Center, 3702 S. Center Street, Marshalltown, Iowa

You may obtain a copy of the brochure and registration form at the counter on the Welcome Center in the Gathering Place. If you have any questions please contact Chris Werling (contact info is on the brochure)

fellas @ first

The Tuesday Night Fellas are taking the summer off. We are an informal Bible study and discussion group and all men of all ages are welcome to join us when we get started again in the fall.

Thank You

I want to thank everybody for all the wonderful cards I received, and for all your prayers. Thank you, my dear family.

Flo Mobley

I just turned 90 and was thrilled to have another visit and another rose from Jane. Thank you to all who are a part of this, especially Jane. The rose is lovely.

Noreen Roth

Thank you to all who helped make our softball team bake sale a smashing success! Thanks to all who contributed baked goods, and of course to those who generously purchased the goodies. And thank you to the wonderful anonymous donor! We received enough in contributions to pay this year's entry fee in full, plus have a good head start on next year.

Steve Bernard

Sympathy to:

Family and friends of Keith Borglum. Keith passed away April 26.

Family and friends of Wilma Hansen. Wilma passed away May 4 in San Antonio.

Dee Voorhees on the loss of her brother, Billy Bell, on May 14.

Welcome to:

Ruby Marie Meusburger was baptized on April 29. She is the daughter of Tyler & Michelle Meusburger, and granddaughter of Mike & Betty Butler.

Natalie JoEllen Raap was baptized on May 6. She is the daughter of Scott & Lauren Raap, and granddaughter of Jim & Sandy Noelting.

Jackson Parker Huhman was baptized on May 20. He is the son of Andy & Shuree Huhman.

Grayson William Schweinfurth was baptized on May 27. He is the son of Alan and Marissa Schweinfurth.

Pastor Bruce Ursin Is Retiring

All are invited to a retirement Celebration for Pastor Bruce Ursin June 24, 2018 from 2:00 - 4:30 (Program at 2:30)

Family Life Center

Wesley United Methodist Church

400 Iowa Ave.

Muscatine, Iowa 52761

No gifts please, but to send a note to Bruce, please mail to the address above or email him at bruce@machlink.com.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Our Pastor's Discretionary Fund is in place for helping the poor and needy. These funds are to be used at the discretion of the pastors to help with requests for emergency help. Typical requests are to put gas in a car for a transient passing through town or someone needing to get to a doctor's appointment, paying a portion of a utility bill, or perhaps a night in a hotel for a person in crisis. We refer many requests for financial help to Love INC, but the discretionary fund is helpful for immediate needs.

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is supported solely by your donations, and is getting low. If you would like to contribute, please write your check to First UMC with "Discretionary Fund" on the memo. Thank you for partnering with the pastors to be the hands and feet of Christ for our neighbors in crisis.

Back to School Project - save the dates

Here's an opportunity to support our local community. The Back to School Project is a volunteer run organization that collects and distributes new school supplies to kindergarten through middle school students in our own metro area. The Back to School Project has been helping thousands of local kids since 1994. This is a 100% volunteer run project, and you can help in July and August. Here's how:

Registration helpers are needed July 2-August 3. This happens at the Waterloo Community Schools headquarters, 1516 Washington Street in Waterloo. Shifts are 9:00-11:30, 11:30-2:00 and 2:00-4:30 Monday-Friday. Recruit a friend for company and contact Ruth Orth to reserve your shift (319-240-7470 or RNLCOMP@mchsi.com)

Packing and distribution is August 10-17 at Lou Henry Elementary in Waterloo. More information about this will be in the upcoming newsletters, or you can contact Lisa in the church office, or check out their website at btscedarvalley.org.

Finance Report (as of May 28)

YTD Budget received:	\$405,739
YTD Budget needs:	\$353,112
YTD Surplus	\$52,626
Mortgage Balance	\$346,155

Consider Automatic Giving

You'll never need to remember to write a check again! It is quick and easy to set up. Contact our Financial Manager, Debbie Dance for details. 319-266-1713 or email debbie.dance@aboutfirst.com.

Attendance- week ending

	5/6	5/13	5/20	5/27
Transformation	100	68	77	53
Traditional 8:30	114	141	127	122
Traditional 11:00	137	86	131	130

First United Methodist Church

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First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls



Sunday, 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Traditional services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Transformation Worship

Van rides are available for the 10:00 Sunday service.

Child care is provided in the nursery for infants and babies for Sunday Services.

Spreading the Word

If you miss a Sunday, or want to hear a message again, find us on the local Public Access cable television channels. If you are unable to receive the television broadcast, weekly dvds are also available, or find the video links for sermons at www.aboutfirst.com

Cedar Falls (CFU) Channel 95.5, Friday @ 8:00 pm, Sunday @ 9:00 am

Waterloo (MediaCom) Channel 17, Sundays @ 11:00am & 9:00 pm

Our Pastors

Steve Williams, Senior Pastor, steve.williams@aboutfirst.com

Matt German, Associate Pastor, matt.german@aboutfirst.com

Staff (in alphabetical order)

Sam Barr, Transformation Music Coordinator

Dee Behr, Parish Visitor
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John Bentley, Head Custodian

Ted Bonebrake, Chancel Choir director
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Emily Terpstra, Custodian